

326 (XXIX) Justice for the Palestinian people: fifty years of Israeli occupation

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 67/19 of 29 November 2012 on the status of Palestine in the United Nations and 70/141 of 17 December 2015 on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,

Referring also to Economic and Social Council resolution 2016/14 of 18 August 2016 on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Recalling its resolutions 316 (XXVIII) of 18 September 2014, 307 (XXVII) of 10 May 2012 and 292 (XXVI) of 19 May 2010, in which it reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, supported the efforts of the Palestinian people and its institutions towards attaining those rights pursuant to United Nations resolutions, and called for intensifying efforts to raise awareness on the rights of the Palestinian people and on the violations of those rights,

Referring to resolutions 640, 641 and 642 adopted at the twenty-seventh session of the League of Arab States Summit, held on 25 and 26 July 2016, which welcome efforts to declare 2017 the International Year to End Israeli Occupation,

Noting the reports presented by the secretariat to the Commissions at its twenty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled “Justice for the Palestinian people: 50 years of Israeli occupation”, which address the question of apartheid, the premises and approach for calculating the cumulative cost of the occupation, and a communication strategy to support the Palestinian people,¹

Noting also the note by the Secretary-General, in which he referred to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session the report prepared by the secretariat in 2016, on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan,² which highlights continuing economic and social deteriorations because of ongoing Israeli policies and practices that violate international law,

1. *Welcomes* the accession of the State of Palestine to international treaties, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and supports efforts for Palestine to accede to all related treaties;

2. *Strongly condemns* continuing Israeli violations of the Charter of the United Nation, international humanitarian law, international human rights law and Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, including the ongoing illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip, the escalation of violence against civilians throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, and the continuing building of settlements and seizure of land by Israel in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, and reaffirms the need to hold Israel accountable for such crimes;

¹ E/ESCWA/29/8, Parts I, II and III.

² A/71/86-E/2016/13.

3. *Considers* 2017 the year to intensify efforts to achieve justice in Palestine and the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, given that it coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the direct military occupation of the West Bank and the seventieth anniversary of the resolution to partition Palestine,³ including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, in addition to the Syrian Golan and the Lebanese Shebaa Farms;

4. *Commends* the efforts of the secretariat in calculating and estimating the cumulative cost of the Israeli occupation and stresses the importance of doing so using a comprehensive scientific methodology, given that this cost is not limited to economic losses suffered by the Palestinian people for decades but also includes other cumulative costs, some of which cannot be calculated notably human and moral losses;

5. *Calls on* member States to:

(a) Increase official activities supporting the Palestinian people within member States and through diplomatic missions, in coordination with Palestinian institutions and by benefiting from the research and media material prepared by the ESCWA secretariat in that field;

(b) Strive to include an item on the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people in general, and on the fiftieth anniversary of the Israeli occupation in as many regional and international events and conferences as possible;

(c) Endeavour to revive the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid and refer the case of apartheid against the Palestinian people to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council of the United Nations;

6. Requests the secretariat to continue supporting the Palestinian people and its institutions, and to increase support in 2017 through the following:

(a) Increase activities on Palestine and organize special activities to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory and the seventieth anniversary of resolution 181 (II), so as to raise awareness of the Palestinian people's rights and suffering and of Israeli violations of international law, and to ensure the widest media coverage possible for those activities;

(b) Publish widely the results of the study on considering Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people as apartheid, by disseminating it to member States, national, regional and international organizations and media institutions, and by organizing activities and producing media material in that regard;

(c) Provide support to the Government of Palestine in implementing the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022, and support Palestinian endeavours to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(d) Build partnerships with international, regional and national bodies, especially with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and strengthen research and technical activities aimed at supporting Palestinian refugees;

(e) Coordinate and collaborate with relevant Palestinian entities to develop an ESCWA media and communications strategy aimed at increasing global awareness of the Palestinian cause and of

³ General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947.

development challenges in view of the occupation and Israeli violations of Palestinian rights and international law;

(f) Continue to monitor and evaluate the repercussions of the Israeli occupation for the Palestinian people and their society, economy and infrastructure and for the economic and social development of current and future generations;

(g) Strengthen efforts to calculate the cumulative impact of the Israeli occupation and its practices on the Palestinian people, and, in this context, build partnerships with all relevant actors;

(h) Strive to establish a specialized unit on issues related to Palestine and its people, including monitoring Israeli violations of the Palestinian people's rights and of international law, documenting the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation and its overall cost, supporting Palestinian institutions in their development efforts, and continue supporting the Palestinian people to realize all its rights guaranteed by United Nations resolutions and international treaties and charters;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue implementing the present resolution and submit a report on progress in its implementation to the Commission at its thirtieth session.

8th plenary meeting
15 December 2016